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to the present time, by that of law, to which all nations ought to be subject; and, secondly, the substitution of a purely defensive citizen soldiery for the permanent armies organized for offence. These are the two essential features of the Union's program.

Well, what the Lombard Union has been able to do for so long a time in its own line of service,— why cannot this be done by associations of citizens of different opinions, when a question arises which, like that of the Triple Alliance, surpasses in importance all party pre-occupations, and affects the great material and moral interests, the economic prosperity and the political dignity of the whole country?

New Books.

THE REAL CHINESE QUESTION. By Chester Holcombe. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Pages XXII and 386. Price, \$1.50.

Mr. Holcombe, the author of this work, was for many years the Secretary of the American Legation at Peking, and acting Minister of the United States at the Chinese Capital. His opportunities of study and comprehension of the Chinese people, customs and institutions have been large, and his work makes clear that he has used these opportunities to the best advantage. No living man, perhaps, unless it be Sir Robert Hart, possesses a larger and truer knowledge of China and her people.

It seems a pity that this work could not have appeared years ago and been read by millions of people in the Western nations, whose ignorance of Chinese life, character and institutions has been as dense as their conceit of superiority has been disgusting. It might have saved all the recent horrors.

Mr. Holcombe takes up and discusses in order the serious mistakes of foreigners about the Chinese, the Chinese character, the literati and their position in the nation, the Chinese societies, the army and the navy, the missionary and his work, diplomacy, opinion of and opposition to foreigners, the opium traffic, foreign aggression, the partition of China, and reform in China. His discussion of each of these topics, while free from burdensome technicalities, is thorough and comprehensive, and made in a most interesting and readable style. Each chapter seems quite as important as any other. But if we had to choose, we should say that the core of the subject is reached in chapters VIII, IX and X, in which Chinese opinion of foreigners, the opium traffic and foreign aggression are treated.

After reading these chapters one is no longer at a loss, if he ever was, as to the causes of the recent fearful disturbances which have shaken the whole earth. Mr. Holcombe declares that the wonder is, not that the outbreak occurred, but that it was so long delayed. He says that the Chinese are fully justified in their opinion that the policy of the Western powers towards their country is purely selfish, mercenary and brutal.

His treatment of the opium business is luminous, and one cannot rise from reading it without a new sense of horror and indignation at this great crime against a people who have done their best to keep free from the degrading evil. The opium traffic, he says, is the main source and feeder of "the sentiment of inveterate hostility to every product, be it a man, a thing, or an idea,

coming from the Western world." "The modern great Chinese wall is mainly constructed of chests of opium." The opium vice, which in the main the British government is responsible for fastening upon China, has, he says, rendered any reform difficult to the verge of impossibility, and unless this vice can be done away he sees no hope for saving and regenerating the Empire. It is a question of life and death. If she is freed from opium, left largely to herself, encouraged and guided in a kindly and friendly way, she will be able to save herself, but not otherwise.

Mr. Holcombe's book ought to be read and re-read by everybody who pretends to any intelligent opinion on the Chinese question, and by all who desire to cast the weight of their influence on the right side of the subject. Something more than the salvation of China is at stake. How will it be possible for nations who shall have ruined such a people as the Chinese to save themselves from ruin?

THE GREAT TRIAL OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By Samuel C. Parks. Kansas City: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Company. Cloth. 173 pages.

This book, published last year, is one of the most remarkable of the many arraignments of the course of our government in the matter of the conquest and annexation of the Philippines. The author was a close personal and political friend of Abraham Lincoln, has had wide experience in political affairs, and in both state and national courts. His argument is put in the form of a trial, in which William McKinley is arraigned for his conduct toward the Philippines. The presiding judge is Chief Justice Marshal, with John Jay and Chancellor Kant associated with him. The jury is made up of Aristides of Athens, Cincinnatus of Rome, Lafayette, Alfred the Great, Count Tolstoy, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Grant, Henry Clay, and Bishop Simpson. After the jury have rendered their verdict of "Guilty as charged in the indictment," they decide, because of the importance of the case, to hold a special public meeting and give their reasons for their decision. At this meeting each of them makes a speech in which he sets forth the reasons for the judgment reached. In this series of speeches Judge Parks develops in a masterly way his objections to the course of the administration as opposed to the fundamental American doctrine of human rights, and as a foolish and mad "attempt to destroy the great Declaration of the rights of Man." Incidentally, Mr. Parks enters his strong protest against the spirit of war and militarism which has manifested itself recently so dangerously in the nation, and sets forth the corruptions which have attended military operations in the Philippines and their peril to the country. The book is enriched with a quotation from Webster's speech at Philadelphia in 1846, on the "War Power," in which is set forth the usurpation which brought on the Mexican war, and also with extracts from a speech of Henry Clay in the House of Representatives in 1818, which contain the well-settled American doctrine which has been trampled down by our government's conquest of the Philippines. Judge Park's lecture on Abraham Lincoln before the Oratorical Association of Michigan University, given at the end of the book, has been pronounced one of the ablest and most discriminating estimates of the great President's character which have appeared.